Bilateral Relations with Nepal

945. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are setting up task force to improve Indo-Nepal bilateral relations;

(b) if so, whether this issue figured in the discussions between the Prime Ministers of India and Nepal during the former's last visit to that country; and

(c) what other steps are being taken to improve relations between the two countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. During Prime Minister's recent visit to Nepal, both Governments agreed to set up a high level task force to prepare a comprehensive programme of bilateral economic cooperation. This task force will work under the overall guidance of the Indo-Nepal Joint Commission and will submit its report by June, 1991.

(c) Various other steps are being taken to intensify bilateral cooperation in key areas of mutual interest and benefit such as water resources development, health care, railways, civil aviation, education and social welfare.

Rajasthan's share of water from Tehri Dam

946. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the claim made by the Government of Rajasthan on Tehri Dam; and

(b) what action Government have taken to ensure that Rajasthan gets its share of water from Tehri Dam to help the drought-prone area of Alwar and Bharatpur-districts?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) 10 per cent of storage.

(b) The Government of Uttar Pradesh have informed Rajasthan Government in September 1988 that in view of commitments on Ganga waters at Tehri Dam Project, it does not appear possible to supply waters to areas in Rajasthan. The Rajasthan Government has been advised to bring up the matter before the inter-State meeting.

Bridges under Inter-State works

947. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the bridges under Inter-State Works to be approved by the Government of India and the projects which have been approved alongwith their costs; and

(b) what are the reasons for not accepting all the projects requested by the Government of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b) Eight works costing Rs. 24.63 crores were approved under the State Roads of Inter-State or Economic Importance during the 7th Five Year Plan as per statement annexed. However, owing to resource crunch etc, other projects suggested by the Government of Rajasthan could not be accommodated in the aforesaid plan.